



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Sequoia & Kings Canyon  
National Parks

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## **Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update**

For Immediate Release – October 1, 2006

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### **Prescribed Fire in Giant Forest Planned to Begin Tomorrow**

On Monday October 2, fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the Wallspring Prescribed Fire in the Giant Forest of Sequoia National Park. The 175-acre unit is located south of the Giant Forest Museum between the Moro Rock Road and the Generals Highway.

Hand-held drip torches will be used to ignite the burn over approximately three days. Throughout the project, fire managers will work closely with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to manage smoke production and reduce local impacts.

Research shows that giant sequoia groves survived regular fires throughout history, every 5-20 years on average. This week's burn is an important link in maintaining the natural fire cycle in Giant Forest. The parks have been conducting prescribed fires since 1969 and many positive results have been observed. Thousands of giant sequoia seedlings are now growing in sunny areas that used to be shady and densely packed with trees in the absence of fire.

### **Roads and Trails**

The Moro Rock Trail between the Giant Forest Museum and the Moro Rock parking area will be closed until further notice. Both the Moro Rock Road and the Generals Highway will remain open during the burn with potential delays. Please use caution while driving in the area since firefighters, equipment, and/or smoke may be present on the roads.

### **Reducing Smoke Exposure**

Park residents and visitors in the area who are sensitive to smoke or have pre-existing respiratory problems should limit their outdoor activities and keep windows closed during the burn. Drink water, eat a balanced diet, and get adequate rest. If you have heart or lung disease, asthma or emphysema, be diligent about following your physician's instructions. Extended smoke exposure is harmful to human health and should be avoided. When inhaled, smoke can cause symptoms similar to a cold or allergies. Most symptoms subside after the smoke is gone.

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